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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| Application of: | FERNANDEZ | Confirmation No.: | 3533 |
| Serial No.: | 10/763,689 | Art Unit: | |
| Filed: | January 26, 2004 | Examiner: | |
| For: | VARIABLE ANGLE LOCKED BONE FIXATION SYSTEM | Attorney Docket No.: | 8932-1090-999 |

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above identified application, please enter the following amendments and consider the remarks below.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.